

Remarks

In the present application, amendments to claims 1 and 4 to 6 have been submitted. Claims 1 to 6 remain pending. An amended title to the application has been submitted. Entry of these amendments and reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

Objections to the Title

The Examiner objected to the title as being too general and maintained that the title should be changed. While Applicant does not admit the correctness of the Examiner's objection, an amended title has been presented in the interest of expediting prosecution.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner rejected claims 1 to 6 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for failing to provide proper antecedent basis for "the covered input and output connectors" in claims 1 and 4. These rejections are respectfully traversed. In claim 1, in the paragraph beginning at line 11, the second cable brackets are recited as covering a portion of the input and output connectors. This clearly provides antecedent basis for a recitation of "the covered input and output connectors" that appears at line 15 of claim 1 and in claim 4.

Applicant submits that proper antecedent basis for claims 1 and 4 has been provided and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 to 6 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1 to 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Miller, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,989,074. These claims are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 as amended recited, in part, that a cross aisle connection panel includes a housing with first and second opposed sides, and first and second exposed ends. A plurality of input and output connectors are mounted to the first side. At each of the first and second ends, a first and a second cable bracket are mounted, for a total of four cable

brackets mounted to the cross aisle connection panel. The second cable bracket at each end is hingedly mounted and movable between a first position and a second position. In the first position, the second cable brackets cover only a portion of the input and output connectors, and the remaining input and output connectors are not covered by either of the second cable brackets. The covered input and output connectors are exposed when the second cable brackets are in the second position.

In contrast, Miller teaches only a single cover 92 mounted along only one of the ends of the housing. Cover 92 includes hinges 93 adapted for hingedly mounting to a first side of the housing and a latch 97, opposite the hinges 93, for engaging retention arms 95 of the housing (col. 7, lines 5 to 16). Cover 92 in the closed position covers each of the input and output connectors 30 and 40, leaving none of the connectors exposed. Hinge pins 86 of the housing are provided on only one side of the housing for engaging hinges 93. Latch 97 is specifically called out to engage the retention arms 95 along the side of the housing. Thus, Miller teaches only a single cover 92, hinged on only one end of the housing and extending across the entire side of the housing covering all of the input and output connectors.

There is no teaching or suggestion that the single cover could be split into the four distinct cable brackets recited in claim 1. Hinges are only taught on one side of the housing and the cover. The latch is only taught to engage retention arms along one of the ends of the housing. Adapting the cover to be hinged at both ends and split would remove the latch which is specifically called out as engaging the retention arms to hold the cover closed. Further, the cover is taught to cover all of the input and out connectors.

Alteration of the cover to be of multiple pieces, hinged on both sides of the housing, is neither taught nor suggested by the cited prior art. In fact, the prior art specifically teaches away from such a multiple part door hinged on both sides with the configuration of hinges, hinge pins and latch disclosed in the prior art. Hinges pins are taught on a single end of the housing and the cover is only taught to be hinged on a single end of the housing. Further, there is no teaching or suggestion that fewer than all of the connectors be covered by the cover. Without such teaching or suggestion, Applicant submits that the prior art cannot render claim 1, as amended, obvious. Applicant submits

that claim 1, as amended, is not rendered obvious by the cited prior art and that claim 1, as amended, is in condition for immediate allowance.

Claims 2 and 3 depend from and further limit claim 1. For at least the reasons cited above with regard to claim 1, Applicant submits that claims 2 and 3 are not rendered obvious by the cited prior art and that claims 2 and 3 are in condition for immediate allowance.

Claim 4, as amended, recites in part a telecommunications rack with a base, first and second vertical frame members and a top. A cross aisle connection panel is mounted to vertical frame members. The cross aisle connection panel includes a housing with first and second opposing ends and a plurality of input and output connectors on a first side of the housing. A first fixed cable bracket is mounted at each of the ends and defines a first vertical cable channel at each end. A second movable cable bracket is mounted at each of the ends and defines a second vertical cable channel at each end. The first and second vertical cable channels at each end segregated from each other.

Miller only teaches a single movable cable bracket defining a single cable channel extending in a first direction, parallel to the main axis of the housing. Though the Examiner did not identify the features which are equivalent to the first cable brackets, Applicants assume that the Examiner intended to refer to wire retention arms 95. These arms 95 define cable passages which extend in a different direction, transverse to the main axis of the housing and to the cable channel defined by the cover. Even assuming that cover 92 could be formed of two pieces hinged at each opposite side, there is no suggestion Miller does not teach or suggest that the cover be configured to define two segregated cable channels along the main axis of the housing. The cable channels defined by the retention arms are not aligned with the same direction as the cable channel defined by the movable cover.

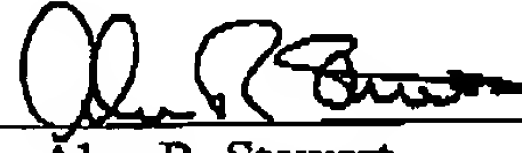
For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that the cited prior art does not render claim 4, as amended, obvious and claim 4, as amended, is in condition for immediate allowance. Claims 5 and 6, as amended, depend from and further limit claim 4. For at least the reasons cited above with respect to claim 4, Applicants submit that claims 5 and 6, as amended, are not rendered obvious by the cited prior art, and that claims 5 and 6, as amended, are in condition for immediate allowance.

Entry of the amendments to claims 1 and 4 to 6, and reexamination and reconsideration of the application in light these amendments and remarks are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Amendment and Response After Final, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative Alan R. Stewart, at 612.371.5376.

Respectfully submitted,
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